

H A R L A N   R I C H A R D S

December 29, 2017

Joy to the World - Find Your Special Song.

As I was singing songs during a recent chapel service, I was thinking about the difference between the average person and a person who had a knack for music. Those who have the ability I'm referring to generally take it for granted and assume that everybody understands music the way they do. They remember melodies and lyrics, have perfect timing and effortlessly sing or play an instrument.

The choir sang a song through one time and the conductor then asked the service attendees to sing along with the choir as the song was repeated. My first thought was that there was no way I would be able to sing along. Even though I had just heard the song being sung, I couldn't remember the lyrics. That's when I realized that musicians (those with the knack) took it for granted that everyone had the same ability as them to hear something once and be able to play or sing it. There is an overhead projector which they use to project song lyrics on the wall so we can sing along. I guess they didn't have the lyrics for that song on a transparency because the projector sat there unused.

Needless to say, nobody sang along. I don't know if it was because, like me, they didn't know the lyrics or just didn't want to sing.

The incident made me think about the importance of music in our lives and I thought it would be nice if people had a special song or an acknowledged favorite song. I decided that I should find a song which represents me and how I feel about my life and the world around me. I write lots of critical blogs and when I reread them, I think I sound like an angry, bitter person. But I'm not.

I believe that I tell it like it is - or at least how I perceive it to be. Just because there are negative or bad situations in my life, it doesn't mean that my experiences have soured my disposition or world view. In fact, I'm pretty much happy and upbeat all the time. My favorite word is "fantastic" which I use so much I'm known as the guy who's fantastic all the time.

Let me get to the point of this blog. I thought about what song I would like to have as my theme song and I decided that the Christmas song, Joy to the World, should be my song. So there you have it. Joy to the World reflects how I feel and how I view the world.

Joy to the world, the Lord has come . . .

Joy to the World

Joy to the world! The Lord is come. Let earth receive her king.  
Let every heart prepare him room  
And heaven and nature sing, And heaven and nature sing  
And heaven and heaven and nature sing.

Joy to the earth! The Savior reigns; Let men their songs employ  
While fields and floods, rocks, hills, and plains  
Repeat resounding joy, Repeat resounding joy  
Repeat, repeat, resounding joy.

No more let sins and sorrows grow, nor thorns infest the ground  
He comes to make his blessings flow  
Far as the curse is found, far as the curse is found  
Far as, far as, the curse is found.

He rules the world with truth and grace, And makes the nations  
prove  
The glories of his righteousness  
And wonders of his love, and wonders of his love  
And wonders, and wonders, of his love.

Lyrics: Isaac Watts  
Music: George Frederick Handel

Song #125 from the Hymnal For Worship and Celebration,  
Pub. Word Music, 1986